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SECOND COMMITTEE
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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 23rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 96: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/50/25, A/50/171, A/50/182-E/1995/66 and Corr.1, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/366, A/50/371, A/50/400, A/50/407, A/50/425-S/1995/787, A/50/475, A/50/518, A/C.2/50/2)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (A/50/3, A/50/74 and Add.1, A/50/218, A/50/453 and A/50/515)

(b) DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT (A/50/227-E/1995/99, A/50/347 and A/50/516)

General discussion (conclusion)

1. Mr. CANCHOLA (Mexico) said, with reference to preparations for the special session of the General Assembly planned for 1997 to examine Agenda 21, that the session should focus on how work relating to environment and development was allocated among the various United Nations bodies and how activities and other matters were coordinated.

2. The special session should result in the adoption of a fundamental policy statement. The discussions should refrain from calling into question the outcomes of negotiations or commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and should guard against attempts to transfer the burden of implementing such commitments. There would be no point in holding a special session if it was to be merely a matter of reaffirming previously adopted provisions. The aim in view was clear: to identify the obstacles preventing the full implementation of Agenda 21 and to find means of overcoming them. Preparations for the session did not need to be exhaustive and could well be carried out as part of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, or of the General Assembly itself.

3. Mr. LORENCIO (Brazil) said that, while document A/50/453 was a good point of departure for discussions on the special session of the General Assembly to consider Agenda 21 in 1997, States should continue to formulate proposals to enrich the debate. Their thinking ought to be based on the principles stated in the Rio Declaration. In that regard Brazil noted that the commitments undertaken, particularly those concerned with the transfer of technology and financial resources, were not always respected. International cooperation should be strengthened in order to achieve a real partnership.

4. With regard to the special session of the General Assembly, it might be still too soon to plot its progress and decide its agenda, but it had already been recognized that the question of consumption and production methods should be considered and that priority should be given to the implementation of the major United Nations conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification.

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of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, called on States that had not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval, and invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 94: MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries (A/C.2/50/L.7)

11. Mr. CABALTULAN (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.2/50/L.7 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that its general aim was to strengthen the activities of the international community in order to achieve a comprehensive, effective, equitable and durable regulation of the debt problem of developing countries. It had already introduced innovative measures to that end, which, far from causing economic upheavals, had actually tended to prosperity.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Mr. CABALTULAN (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted that the General Assembly should authorize the commitment of travel expenses for the representatives of developing countries that were not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development who wished to take part in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. He therefore requested the Chairman to send a letter to that effect to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

13. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take the action suggested.

14. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.